

Appl. No. 09/663,576  
Atty. Docket No. 7882X  
Amdt. Dated June 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of April 15, 2004  
Customer No. 27752

### REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 34 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Claims 16-31 have been withdrawn.

Claims 1, 13, 14, 16, 19, 23 and 27 have been amended.

According to Section 714.12 of the MPEP any amendment that will place a case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered. According to Section 714.13 of the MPEP, non-entry should not be arbitrary but rather for the following reasons:

- (1) New claims were presented without canceling an equal number of finally rejected claims.
- (2) The amended claims would raise the issue of new matter.
- (3) The amended claims, would present new issues requiring further search or consideration.
- (4) The amended claims would not avoid any of the rejections set forth in the last office action.

Applicants have not submitted any new claims. It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Applicants believe that the amended claims do not present any new issues requiring further search or consideration as the Examiner's suggestions have been incorporated into the amended claims. Applicants further believe that the proposed amendments avoid the rejections set forth in the last office action dated April 15, 2004. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

### Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 132 and 112, first paragraph. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

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Applicants have made an earnest effort to place their application in proper form. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of Claims 1-15 and 34. If, prior to allowance, any outstanding issues exist, Applicants' attorney would welcome the opportunity to resolve such issues via a phone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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